

How Alaska's hunting regulations are changed

Alaska has a very public process of setting hunting regulations. The Board of Game determines the hunting regulations and meets at least twice a year. The board does not have time to consider every topic in the regulations at every meeting, so it deals with topics on a rotating basis. After the agenda for the next meeting is set, the board issues a "Call for Proposals," which is sent to various agencies, groups, and individuals and is published in Alaska newspapers.

Advisory committees were created to provide a local forum to discuss and make recommendations on fish and wildlife issues before the board. There are currently 81 local fish and game advisory committees. Advisory committees typically meet sometime prior to the call for proposal deadline and develop proposals relating to the committee's concerns. Advisory committees meet after proposals are published to comment and provide reasons opposing or supporting proposals.

Any individual or group in the state can propose a change in a hunting regulation. If you wish to propose a change in a regulation, please do the following:

- When possible, use the printed proposal form available at local ADF&G offices or boards support section.
- Use clear, concise wording on your proposal.
- State the Alaska Administrative Code number (for example, 5 AAC 92.990) for the regulation you want to change, or provide the general heading and page number in the present regulation book. (See *definitions*, pages 22-23 for an example).
- State the problem you are trying to correct and list the reasons why you want the regulation changed.
- Submit your proposal before the deadline and be sure to allow sufficient time for mailing.
- Questions? Call Boards Support at (907) 465-4110 or (907) 267-2354.

The following list references the species listed in this book and the Alaska Administrative Code that specifically addresses each species, 5 AAC 85.xxx, where .xxx is the species under consideration. For example, 5 AAC 85.015 details seasons and bag limits pertinent to black bear.

black bear	(.015)
brown/grizzly bear	(.020)
bison	(.010)
caribou	(.025)
deer	(.030)
elk	(.035)
goats	(.040)
moose	(.045)
muskoxen	(.050)
Dall sheep	(.055)
wolf	(.056)
wolverine	(.057)
fur animals	(.060)
small game, unclassified game	(.070)
deleterious exotic wildlife	(.075)

Management of predator populations

The wolf is one of the world's most fascinating and well-studied animals. Alaskans are fortunate to have an estimated 7,700-11,200 wolves in our state. Wolves have never been threatened or endangered in Alaska, and inhabit all of their traditional range except within the largest cities.

Wolves and bears are very effective and efficient predators of caribou, moose, deer and other wildlife. In most of Alaska, humans also rely on the same species for food. In Alaska's Interior, predators kill more than 80 percent of the moose and caribou that die during an average year, while humans kill less than 10 percent. In most of the state, predation holds prey populations at levels far below what could be supported by the habitat in the area. Predation is an important part of the ecosystem, and all ADF&G wolf management programs, including control programs, are designed to sustain wolf populations in the future.

When the Board of Game determines that people need more moose and/or caribou in a particular area, and restrictions on hunting aren't enough to allow prey populations to increase, predator control programs may be needed. Hunting and trapping rarely reduce wolf numbers enough to increase prey numbers or harvests.

Wolf control is NOT a form of hunting and trapping. The state authorizes selected applicants to remove wolves using aerial and/or same-day-airborne methods to reduce predation pressure upon depleted moose and caribou populations. In these areas, wolf numbers will be temporarily reduced, but wolves will not be permanently eliminated from any area. Successful programs will result in increased human harvests of moose and caribou and will allow healthy wolf populations to continue to thrive across the state.

The following wolf control programs are underway on about 6% of Alaska's total land area.

Unit 13 - area consists of all lands (except federal lands) within Units 13A, 13B, 13C, and that portion of 13E east of the Alaska Railroad.

Unit 16B, mainland - area consists of all non-federal lands within Unit 16B excluding Kalgin Island.

Units 19A and 19B, Central Kuskokwim - area consists of all non-federal lands in Units 19A and 19B.

Unit 19D, East - area consists of that portion of Unit 19D upstream from, but not

including, the Selatna River drainage and the Black River drainage.

Unit 20A area consists of Unit 20A, except for the following areas: the Fort Wainwright and Fort Greely Military Reservations, Clear Air Force Station, and that portion of Unit 20A south and west of a line beginning at the east end of the Moody Bridge where it intersects with the Unit 20A boundary, then north along the boundary of Unit 20A to a point exactly one mile east of the George Parks Highway, then south on a line paralleling the George Parks Highway at a distance of one mile, to the southern boundary of Unit 20A.

Unit 20D area consists of Unit 20D except for the portions of Unit 20D within the Ft. Greely Military Reservation and that portion including the Goodpaster drainage upstream from and including Central Creek, the entire drainage of the South Fork of the Goodpaster River, the Healy River drainage, and Billy and Sand Creeks.

Units 12 and 20E area consists of all of Units 12 and 20E but does not apply to any National Park Service or National Wildlife Refuge lands not approved by the federal agencies.